

## CHAPTER 10

# HONORS AND CEREMONIES

From the days when the United States first came into being as an independent nation, tradition has played an important role in the ceremonial functions of our Navy. At first, most of the honors and ceremonies rendered by our Navy were carried over from the British Navy. Before many years, however, the U.S. Navy began changing them to conform to its own concepts. The U.S. Navy now has a very rigid set of rules that covers all phases of ceremonial functions.

Of all the ratings aboard ship, Signalman is most directly concerned with rules for rendering honors and ceremonies. When the occasions for rendering them arise, there is often insufficient time to search through the regulations for needed information. That is why Signalmen must know, in advance, what, when, how, where, and by whom honors are rendered. This chapter attempts to answer some of those requirements. Additional information is contained in *Flags, Pennants and Customs*, NTP 13, and *U.S. Navy Regulations*, chapter 12.

### FLAG DISPLAYS

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**LEARNING OBJECTIVE:** Explain the procedures for the display of the national ensign, union jack, U.S. Navy flag, and United Nations flag.

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A national flag is the flag flown to represent a national government. The ensign is a flag designated by a country to be flown by its men-of-war. In the United States, the designs of the two are identical. As used in this section, national flag and ensign are synonymous. Aboard ship, however, the national flag always is referred to as the ensign. The union jack is the rectangular blue part of the United States flag containing the stars.

### NATIONAL FLAG

There are numerous rules for displaying of the national flag, some of which are discussed in the following paragraphs. See NTP 13 for more instructions on the display of the national flag.

### Group

The national flag must be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags or pennants of states, localities, or societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.

### Crossed Staff

The national flag, when displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs must be on the right—the flag's own right—and its staff must be in front of the staff of the other flag.

### Church Services

No other flag or pennant is to be placed above or, if on the same level, to the right of the national flag. The only exception to this rule is during church services conducted by naval chaplains at sea for personnel of the Navy. Then the church or Jewish worship pennant may be flown above the national flag. The term *at sea* is interpreted to mean on board a ship of the U.S. Navy.

### Covering a Casket

When the national flag is used to cover a casket, it must be so placed that the union is at the head over the left shoulder. The flag must not be lowered into the grave or allowed to touch the ground.

### Behind a Speaker

When used on a speaker's platform, the national flag, if displayed flat, is displayed above and behind the speaker.

### Half-Mast

The national flag, if flown at half-mast, must first be hoisted to the peak. On the last note of the national anthem or "To the Colors," it is then lowered smartly to that position. Before the flag is lowered from the half-mast position, it is hoisted smartly to the peak on the first note of the music and then ceremoniously lowered.

## NATIONAL ENSIGN

The following rules govern the display of the national ensign in port and under way.

### In Port

When not under way, commissioned ships display the ensign from the flagstaff at the stern and the union jack from the jackstaff at the bow from 0800 to sunset. In the case of a mastless ship, the ensign will be displayed from the loftiest hoist on board. After entering a foreign port during darkness, a Navy ship briefly displays the ensign from the gaff at first light to establish nationality. Other ships of war present customarily display their ensigns in return.

According to SECNAVINST 10520.4, the oldest ship in the Navy, as identified by the Chief of Naval Operations, is to display the first Navy jack, in lieu of the union jack, at the jackstaff.

### Under Way

When flown under way during peacetime, the ensign normally is displayed during daylight from the gaff (or triatic stay in the case of those ships with mast-mounted booms and stays, which would interfere with the hoisting, lowering, or flying of the national ensign) under the following situations unless otherwise directed by the senior officer present:

- Getting under way or mooring/anchoring

- Falling in with other ships
- Cruising near land
- When engaged in battle

When cruising under wartime conditions, it is customary to fly the national ensign continuously at sea, since battle action may be regarded as always imminent.

The union jack is not flown under way except in the case to denote a general court-martial or court of inquiry is in session. In that case, it is flown from a signal yardarm.

### Size of Ensign/Jack for Shipboard Use

Table 10-1 shows the appropriate size of the ensign and jack to be used aboard your ship. Remember that the union jack must be the same size as the union portion of the ensign being flown from the flagstaff.

### Shore Display of the National Ensign

The national ensign is displayed from 0800 until sunset at all U.S. naval activity headquarters. The following are additional rules that apply to the display of the national ensign:

- No other flag or pennant will be displayed above or, if on the same level, to the right of the ensign.

**Table 10-1.—Sizes of Ensigns and Jacks for Shipboard Use**

LENGTH			HOLIDAY			DAILY		
SHIP	FLAG STAFF	JACK STAFF	S I Z E	ENSIGN DIMENSION	JACK DIMENSION	S I Z E	ENSIGN DIMENSION	JACK DIMENSION
Less 100'	10'	Jackstaffs with anchor lights mounted thereon shall be of sufficient height so as to conform to Rules of the Road	8	3'6" × 6' 7 3/4"	1' 10 9/16" × 2' 7 5/16"	10	2' 4 7/16" × 4'6"	(See Note 1)
100'-150'	12'		8	3'6" × 6' 7 3/4"	1' 10 9/16" × 2' 7 5/16"	10	2' 4 7/16" × 4'6"	(See Note 1)
151'-200'	15'		7	5' 0" × 9' 6"	2' 8 1/4" × 3' 9 5/8"	8	3'6" × 6' 7 3/4"	1' 10 9/16" × 2' 7 15/16"
201'-450'	17'		7	5' 0" × 9'6"	2' 8 1/4" × 3' 9 5/8"	8	3'6" × 6' 7 3/4"	1' 10 9/16" × 2' 7 15/16"
451'-UP	22'		5	8' 11 3/8" × 17' 0"	4' 9 13/16" × 6' 9 5/8"	7	5'0" × 9'6"	2' 8 1/4" × 3' 9 5/8"

- When displayed with foreign ensigns, the U.S. ensign must be displayed to the extreme right and on the same level. International usage forbids displaying the flag of one nation over that of another nation in time of peace. The national ensign of other nations is displayed to the left of the U.S. ensign, beginning in alphabetical order. The only exception to this rule is when the U.S. naval activity is in a foreign country, in which case that country's flag will be to the immediate left of the U.S. ensign without regard to alphabetical listing.

- In a semicircular grouping, all flags other than the U.S. ensign are displayed in alphabetical order starting from left and reading clockwise. The U.S. ensign is displayed in the middle of the semicircle.

The display of the national ensign from various flagpoles is contained in NTP 13; as a general rule, the right side of a flagpole is determined by looking from the main entrance of a building towards the pole. Flagpoles at naval shore activities are topped with a brass ball of appropriate size.

### Flag Size for Shore

The following dimensions may be used in determining the size of the ensign to be flown. A larger size is flown on Sundays and holidays and a smaller size flown daily if such a choice is available.

<u>Height of flagpole</u>	<u>Recommended size</u>
Less than 35 feet	#8 (3' 6" × 6' 7 3/4")
35 to 55 feet#	7 (5' × 9' 6")
Greater than 55 feet	#5 (8' 11 3/8" × 17')

### Miscellaneous Information

The union jack is not displayed ashore. The church or Jewish pennant is not displayed above the national ensign ashore, but separately if desired. The following sites have been authorized to fly the national ensign 24 hours a day:

- U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C.
- White House, Washington, D.C.
- Fort McHenry, Baltimore, Maryland
- Home of Betsy Ross, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- U.S. Marine Corps Iwo Jima Memorial, Arlington, Virginia
- Battle Green, Lexington, Massachusetts
- Washington Monument, Washington, D.C.

- Customs Ports of Entry

### HOISTING AND LOWERING

The national ensign is never broken, but always hoisted briskly and smartly and lowered ceremoniously. The only exception to this practice is when the national ensign is hauled down briskly and smartly from the gaff as a ship shifts colors to the flagstaff when anchoring or mooring between the hours of 0800 and sunset. On board ships and crafts of the Navy, the union jack at the jackstaff is hoisted, lowered, and half-masted with the national ensign at the flagstaff.

### HALF-MASTING THE ENSIGN

When half-masting the national ensign, it must, if not already hoisted, first be hoisted to the peak, then lowered to the half-mast position. Before lowering from half-mast, the flag must be hoisted to the peak and then lowered.

When the President directs that the national ensign be flown at half-mast at military installations and aboard ships, it must be flown at half-mast whether or not the ensign of another nation is flown close-up alongside the U.S. ensign.

When the national ensign is flown half-mast in ships or crafts of the Navy, the church or Jewish worship pennant, if flown, is hoisted just above the national ensign.

If holiday colors are to be displayed on days other than Sundays and holidays, or if colors are to be displayed at half-mast on days other than Memorial Day, the senior officer present, at 0745, hoists the appropriate signal. If such signal is hoisted after 0800, colors must be shifted or half-masted when the signal is hauled down. If half-masting is ordered during periods of dress or full-dress ship, only the national ensign at the flagstaff is half-masted.

#### NOTE

On board ship or at a shore command, upon all occasions of hoisting, lowering, or half-masting of the national ensign, the motion of the senior officer present must be followed except as prescribed for answering a dip or firing a gun salute.

Table 10-2 shows the occasions when the flag is half-masted as a symbol of mourning. As you can see by table 10-2, there are occasions when ships under

Table 10-2.—Occasions When the National Flag is Half-Masted as a Symbol of Mourning

Deceased Official	National flag half-masted	
	By—	Period
President, former President, or a President-elect.	All ships and stations of the Naval Establishment.	When displayed: For 30 days from the day of death.
Vice President, Chief Justice or retired Chief Justice of the United States, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives.	..... do .....	When displayed: For 10 days from the day of death.
An Associate justice of the Supreme Court, a member of the Cabinet, a former Vice President, the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Navy, or the Secretary of the Air Force.	..... do .....	From the day of death until interment.
Governor of a state, territory, or possession.	All ships and stations in such state, territory, or possession.	..... do .....
United States Senator, Representative, Territorial Delegate, or the Resident Commissioner from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.	All ships and stations in the metropolitan area of the District of Columbia. All ships and stations in the applicable state, congressional district, territory, or commonwealth.	From the day of death until interment.
Civil officials not listed above, but entitled to gun salute on official visit.	Ships and stations in the vicinity when directed by senior officer present or other competent authority to join in funeral honors.	When displayed: From 0800 till sunset on day of funeral.

Deceased	National flag half-masted		Personal flag or command pennant of deceased, commission pennant of ship command.
	By—	Period	
Chairman or former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, United States military officer of 5-star rank, Chief or former Chief of Naval Operations, Commandant or former Commandant of the Marine Corps.	All ships and stations of the Department of the Navy.	From time of death until sunset of the day of the funeral.	Half-masted from time of death until sunset of day of funeral, or removal of the body, and then hauled down.
Flag or general officer (Marine) in command.	All ships present, not under way, and by naval stations in vicinity.	When displayed: From time of death until sunset of day of funeral, or removal of the body.	..... do .....
Flag or general officer (Marine) not in command.	.. do ..	From the beginning of the funeral until sunset of that day.	..... do .....
Unit commander not a flag officer; commanding officer.	.. do ..	... do ...	Half-masted from time of death until sunset of day of funeral, or removal of the body, and then hauled down; except commission pennant rounded up.
All other persons in the naval service.	.. do ..	During funeral and for 1 hour thereafter.	

way do not half-mast the ensign although those not under way do so. The ensign is also half-masted on the following occasions:

- The United States honors its war dead on Memorial Day by half-masting the flag from 0800 until the last gun of a 21-minute gun salute that begins at noon or until 1220 if no gun salute is rendered.
- During burial at sea, the ensign is at half-mast from the beginning of the funeral service until the body is committed to the deep. A longer period for displaying the ensign at half-mast may be prescribed, according to circumstances, by the senior officer present. Boats participating in a funeral procession also fly the national ensign at half-mast.

### DIPPING THE NATIONAL ENSIGN

*U.S. Navy Regulations* stipulates that when any ship under United States registry or the registry of a nation formally recognized by the United States salutes a U.S. Navy ship by dipping its flag, the courtesy is to be returned, dip for dip. If a salute is rendered to a naval vessel when the ensign is not already displayed, such as before 0800 or after sunset (in port), the national ensign shall be hoisted for the

purpose of answering the dip and, after a suitable interval, hauled down. If displayed at half-mast, the national ensign must first be hoisted to the peak before answering the dip, then returned to half-mast after a suitable interval.

No U.S. Navy ship shall dip the national ensign unless in return for such compliment. U.S. naval ships (USNS) of the Military Sealift Command do not dip the national ensign to Navy ships, since they are public ships of the United States.

Formal recognition does not necessarily mean that diplomatic relations must exist. Moreover, the fact that diplomatic relations have been severed does not mean that the United States no longer recognizes the existence of the state or the government concerned.

According to the State Department (Protocol) listing of 6/86, the following governments (fig. 10-1) were not formally recognized by the United States and, therefore, are not entitled to a salute:

Albania  
Angola  
Cuba

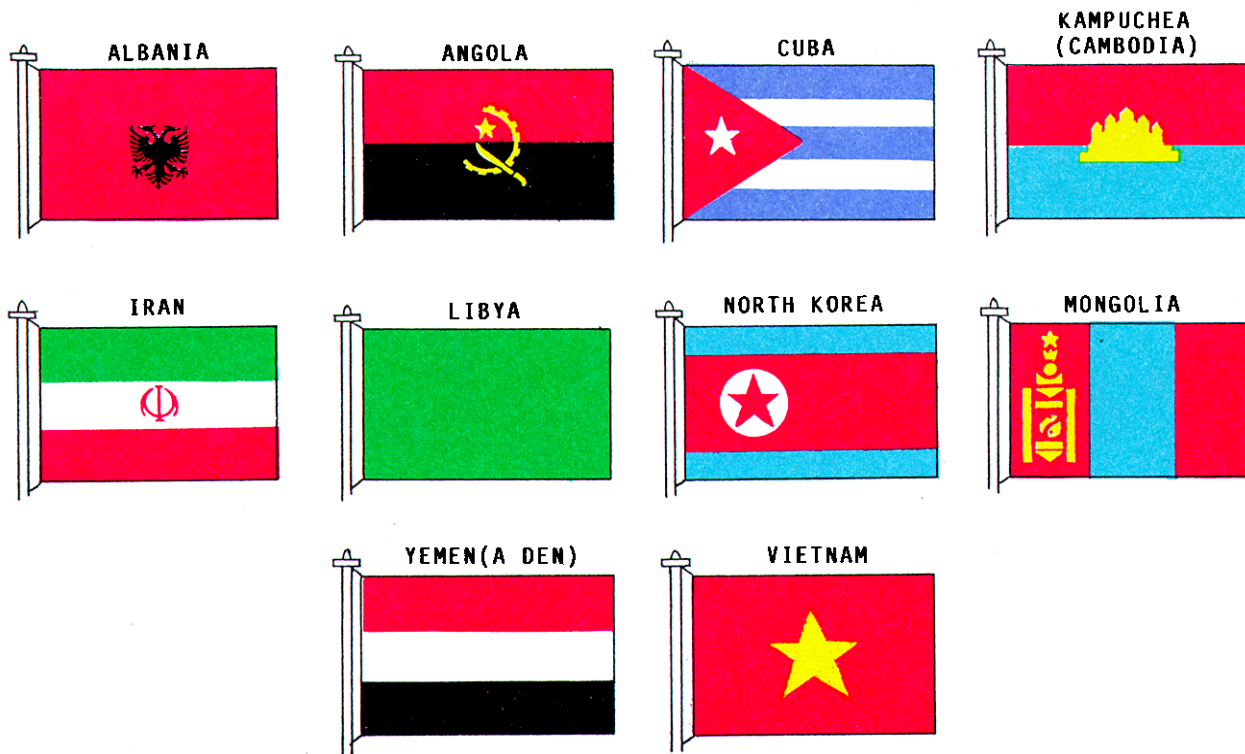


Figure 10-1.—Flags of nations not formally recognized by the United States.

Kampuchea

Iran

Libya

Mongolia

North Korea

South Yemen (Peoples Democratic Republic of)

Vietnam (Social Republic of)

Dips by yachts displaying a yacht ensign are also returned. The yacht ensign is similar in design to the U.S. ensign except that the blue field contains a white fouled anchor surrounded by 13 white stars.

Submarines, or such other ships of the line in which it would be considered hazardous for personnel to do so, are not required to dip the ensign.

Of the colors carried by a naval force on shore, only the U.S. Navy flag and the Battalion Colors are dipped in rendering or acknowledging a salute.

## UNION JACK

The union jack, when displayed from the jackstaff, is the same size as the union of the ensign displayed from the flagstaff.

When a naval ship is not under way, the union jack is flown from the jackstaff from 0800 to sunset. It is also hoisted at the yardarm to indicate that a general court-martial or a court of inquiry is in session. It is hoisted when the court meets and is hauled down when the court adjourns.

When displayed from the jackstaff, the union jack is half-masted when the ensign is half-masted. It is not dipped, however, when the ensign is dipped in return for such honor being rendered it.

The union jack is flown in boats as follows:

- When a diplomatic representative of the United States of or above the rank of charge d'affaires is embarked in a boat of the U.S. Navy and is within the waters of the country to which he/she is accredited
- When a governor general or governor commissioned as such by the President is embarked in a boat in an official capacity and is within the area of jurisdiction (for example, the Governor of the Virgin Islands)

## PERSONAL FLAGS AND COMMAND PENNANTS

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*LEARNING OBJECTIVES:* Identify procedures for the displaying of personnel flags and command pennants from ships, shore commands, vehicles, and aircraft. Explain the use of the commission pennant.

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Figure 10-2 shows personal flags, personal command pennants, and several miscellaneous flags and pennants.

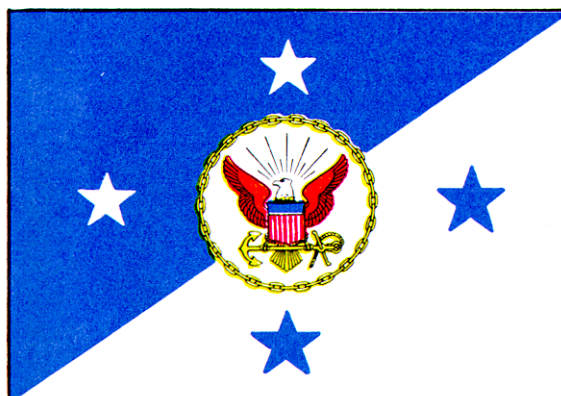
The distinctive mark of a ship or craft in commission in the Navy is either a commission pennant, a personal flag, or a command pennant of an officer of the Navy eligible for command at sea. The distinctive mark of a Navy hospital ship in commission is the Red Cross flag.

Only one distinctive mark is displayed by a ship or craft at one time. If a personal flag, including that of a civil official, or command pennant goes up, the commission pennant comes down. Except as prescribed in *Navy Regulations* for certain occasions of ceremony, the distinctive mark must remain at the after masthead day and night or, in a mastless ship, from the loftiest and most conspicuous hoist. Ceremonial occasions may require the shifting of the distinctive mark to another masthead or to the starboard yardarm.

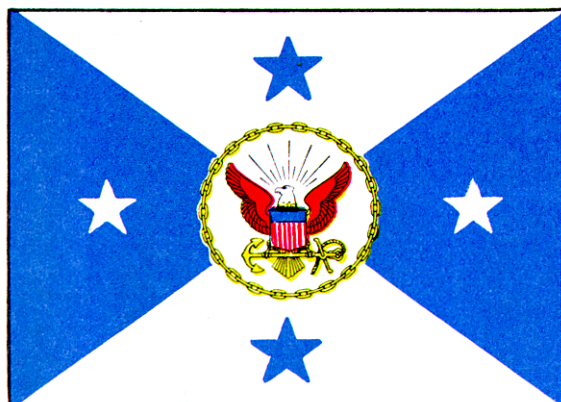
## DISPLAY OF PERSONAL FLAGS AND COMMAND PENNANTS

A flag officer or unit commander afloat must display his/her personal flag or command pennant from his/her flagship. At no time must he/she display it from more than one ship. When a flag officer, eligible for command at sea, is embarked for passage in a ship of the Navy, his/her personal flag must be displayed from such ship unless there is already displayed a personal flag of an officer his/her senior.

There are a number of civil officials entitled to show personal flags that go with their offices. The flags of interest to a Signaller, however, are those belonging to civil officials whose personal flags are authorized for display during official visits. (Visits are discussed later in this chapter.) Personal flags of principal civil officials are shown in figure 10-3.



CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS



VICE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

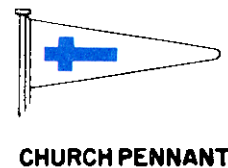
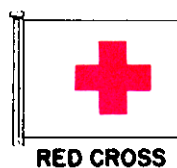
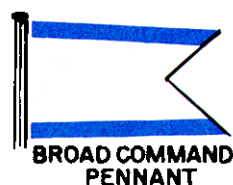
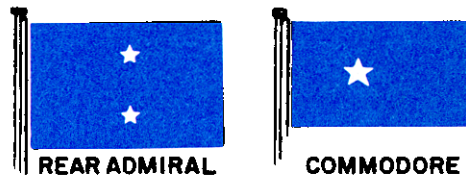


Figure 10-2.—Personal flags and command pennants of officers eligible for command at sea.

The commission pennant is hauled down when the personal flags of the following civil officials are displayed at the main truck during official visits and during the time they are officially embarked for passage in a Navy ship:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary of State, when acting as a special foreign representative of the President
- Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and Assistant Secretaries of Defense
- Secretary, Under Secretary, and Assistant Secretaries of the Navy

When more than one civil official is aboard, only the flag of the senior is displayed.

## RESTRICTIONS

A ship under way must not display a personal flag or command pennant unless a flag officer or unit commander is aboard. Should a flagship get under way during the absence of the flag officer, the personal flag or command pennant is hauled down and replaced with a commission pennant. Should the flag officer or unit commander depart his/her ship at sea for a brief call to another ship, his/her personal flag or command pennant should remain hoisted.

A personal flag or command pennant may be hauled down during battle or at any time the officer